

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image capture and transmission system comprising:  
first and second imaging devices;  
5 first means for generating a timing signal;  
a common drive circuit for driving the first and second  
imaging devices at equal timings determined by the timing signal  
generated by the first means;  
a first signal processor for converting an output signal of the  
10 first imaging device into first digital video data;  
a second signal processor for converting an output signal of  
the second imaging device into second digital video data;  
second means for processing the first digital video data and  
the second digital video data into a stream of packets; and  
15 third means for transmitting the packet stream generated by  
the second means.
2. An image capture and transmission system as recited in claim  
1, further comprising a third imaging device, and a drive circuit for  
20 driving the third imaging device at a timing different from the  
timings of drive of the first and second imaging devices.
3. An image capture and transmission system as recited in claim  
1, wherein the third means comprises means for outputting the  
25 packets in the stream to a network, and the first means comprises  
means for generating the timing signal synchronized with the

outputting of the packets to the network.

4. An image capture and transmission system as recited in claim  
1, further comprising means for setting a changeable transmission  
5 start point in every frame represented by the first digital video data  
and the second digital video data, and means for enabling the  
transmission of the first digital video data and the second digital  
video data in the packet stream by the third means to start at the  
transmission start point for every frame represented by the first  
10 digital video data and the second digital video data.

5. An image capture and transmission system as recited in claim  
1, further comprising means provided in the third means for re-  
transmitting a portion of the packet stream in response to a signal  
15 of a re-transmission request.

6. An image capture and transmission system as recited in claim  
1, further comprising means provided in the third means for re-  
transmitting a whole of the first digital video data and the second  
20 digital video data in the packet stream.

7. An image capture and transmission system as recited in claim  
1, wherein the second means comprises means for compressing the  
first digital video data into first compression-resultant digital video  
25 data, means for compressing the second digital video data into  
second compression-resultant digital video data, and means for

combining the first compression-resultant digital video data and the second compression-resultant digital video data into the packet stream.

5     8.     An image capture and transmission system as recited in claim  
1, wherein the second means comprises means for executing a first  
calculative operation between the first digital video data and the  
second digital video data, and generating first operation-resultant  
10     digital video data, means for executing a second calculative  
operation between the first digital video data and the second digital  
video data, and generating second operation-resultant digital video  
data, the second calculative operation being different from the first  
calculative operation, means for compressing the first operation-  
15     resultant digital video data into first compression-resultant digital  
video data, means for compressing the second operation-resultant  
digital video data into second compression-resultant digital video  
data, and means for combining the first compression-resultant  
digital video data and the second compression-resultant digital  
20     video data into the packet stream.

20     9.     An image capture and transmission system as recited in claim  
1, wherein the second means comprises means for setting a  
changeable effective region in every frame represented by the first  
digital video data and the second digital video data, means for  
25     selecting portions of the first digital video data and the second  
digital video data which correspond to the effective region in every

frame, and means for placing only the selected portions of the first digital video data and the second digital video data in the packet stream.

- 5     10.   An image capture and transmission system as recited in claim 9, wherein the effective region in every frame is rectangular, and extends between horizontal limit positions and extends between vertical limit positions.
- 10   11.   An image capture and transmission system as recited in claim 9, further comprising means for searching every frame represented by the first digital video data and the second digital video data for a predetermined target object, and means for changing the effective region in every frame in response to a result of the searching.
- 15   12.   An image capture and transmission system as recited in claim 9, further comprising means for sensing a specified object in every frame represented by the first digital video data and the second digital video data, and generating information of a result of the
- 20   sensing; means provided in the second means for automatically setting the effective region in every frame in accordance with a variable setting condition, and means for deciding the setting condition in response to the information of the result of the sensing.
- 25   13.   An image capture and transmission system as recited in claim 9, further comprising means for sensing a specified object in every

frame represented by the first digital video data and the second digital video data, and generating information of a result of the sensing, and means for changing the effective region in every frame in response to the information of the result of the sensing.